

# PROPERTY PLANNING COMMON ELEMENTS

## COMPONENTS OF MASTER PLANS

### GENERAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The following describes general property administration and management policies and provisions that apply to all DNR managed lands. This section contains information on **Property Access**, which includes the following:

- Road Management and Motorized Public Access
- Disabled Accessibility
- Closures

#### Property Access

##### ***Road Management and Motorized Public Access***

Public access roads, service roads, permanent burn breaks, stocking lanes, dikes tops, and other temporary roads (e.g., logging roads) are part of the transportation network for each property. Roads open to public vehicles along with their associated parking lots provide vehicle access for visitors to enjoy a variety of non-motorized recreational uses. Management roads provide access to DNR staff for habitat and forest management activities. Additionally, some roads also serve as snowmobile routes in winter.

While management roads are not specifically designed or maintained as public use facilities, property visitors may walk, ski, or snowshoe on them, unless posted closed to public access.

Federal highways, state highways, and county/town roads bordering or passing through department properties are the management responsibility of these respective jurisdictions and are not covered by this road management plan.

All permanently maintained department-managed roads are shown on the appropriate property master plan maps. These maps also indicate each road's prescribed development level ([NR 44 road classification](#)) and which roads are open to public vehicle access (street-licensed vehicles).

All roads are closed to ATVs unless designated open for such use. Roads closed to public vehicles are gated, blocked, or signed. However, they are open to foot access for hunting, trapping, hiking and other general recreational uses. Most public-vehicle-access roads managed by the DNR are constructed and maintained to be accessible by all street-licensed vehicles. However, primitive roads may not be accessible by all vehicles. If open, high-clearance four-wheel-drive vehicles may be required.

Property managers may temporarily close a road to public use to conduct habitat management activities (e.g., prescribed burn, timber harvest) or for safety, environmental condition, or law enforcement reasons. In this case the road will be signed and may be gated or otherwise blocked. Property managers may open closed management roads to public vehicles for short-term, special events or activities (e.g., firewood cutting). Property managers also may develop or open temporary roads or access ways as needed to conduct short-term management activities such as timber harvest or invasive species treatment. These access ways shall be closed and appropriately abandoned when the management activity has been completed.



Property managers also are authorized to establish small (2-3 vehicle capacity), primitive, undesignated “pull-off” areas to provide parking at locations frequently used by the public where vehicle parking along a public roadway poses a safety hazard or conflict.

The following management objectives and prescriptions apply to department-managed roads.

### Objectives

- Provide vehicle access to meet the management access needs of managers and the recreation access needs of the public in ways that are sustainable and compatible with the property’s recreational use and resource management and protection objectives.
- Maintain roads at their designated road standard and in a sustainable condition while minimizing environmental impacts.

### Prescriptions

- Maintain permanent roads to their designated NR 44 road classification development standard.
- Route, design, and construct permanent and temporary roads to minimize habitat fragmentation and impacts to endangered, threatened, and special concern species.
- Develop a road inspection and maintenance schedule, maintaining all roads in a sustainable condition following Wisconsin’s Forestry BMPs for Water Quality.
- Grade roads periodically, as appropriate to their development standard, to maintain proper surface drainage and stable road surfaces. Inspect active roads after heavy storm events. Clear debris as needed from road surfaces, culverts, and ditches to decrease unsafe conditions and prevent road and vehicle damage.
- Close and restore temporary access roads to non-erosive conditions in accordance with Wisconsin's Forestry BMPs for Water Quality after the management activity for which they were established is completed.
- Collaborate with municipal, town, and county roadside maintenance crews to protect and enhance the quality of roadside easement areas, especially to control the spread of invasive species.

### ***Disabled Accessibility***

The department is committed to providing exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities around the state for people of all abilities. All new construction and renovation of infrastructure will follow guidelines set forth within the Americans with Disabilities Act and also be done in a manner consistent with NR 44 standards of the land use classification of the site where the development is located.

Property managers have the authority to make reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities, consistent with the requirements of an area’s land use classification. Property managers also may allow the use of power-driven mobility devices with a WDNR-issued permit, consistent with a March 15, 2011 U.S. Department of Justice ruling. Approval will depend on various factors including: the physical characteristics of the device; the volume of pedestrian traffic at the location; the design and operational characteristics of the site; safety considerations; and whether the proposed use creates substantial risk of serious harm to environmental, natural, or cultural resources.



## ***Closures***

In the event of an emergency that may threaten public health and safety (e.g., wind storm, tornado, flood, or other safety hazards) or to protect the resource values of a property (e.g., erosion from over-use, trail damage during spring thaw, etc.), property managers are authorized, under [NR 45.04\(1\)\(b\)](#), [Wis. Admin. Code](#), to temporarily close, by posted notice, any land, land improvement, facility, or property owned or administered by the State of Wisconsin and under the management, supervision, and control of the DNR, and to take corrective actions as necessary. This applies to department-managed roads but not to Town, County, or State roads managed, supervised, or controlled by other agencies.

